

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes in the House on March 8, 2017. If I had been present, I would have voted "Yea" on Roll Call No. 136, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2017.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP
JOSEPH J. MADERA**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bishop Joseph J. Madera, who passed away on January 21, 2017 at age 89. Bishop Madera was a loving son, brother, and leader of the Central California Catholic community, who was called "the people's bishop" by those he served.

Born on November 27, 1927, Bishop Madera was raised in Mexico. He entered the seminary at age 15, studying priesthood in Coyoacan, a neighborhood in Mexico City. After being ordained on June 15, 1957, Bishop Madera was sent to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles where there was a need for priests who understood the needs of Catholics of Mexican descent. He served in Los Angeles for 15 years until 1976, when he became a pastor in Fowler in the San Joaquin Valley. Four years later, in 1980, he was ordained bishop for the Diocese of Fresno.

While Bishop Madera of Fresno, Bishop Madera created specialized ministries for families and youth, and became very involved in the Hispanic community. He started an education television station in Fresno to spread his message on Catholicism, which would later become Channel 49 (KNXT). In 1991, Bishop Madera became an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Service until his retirement in 2004.

Bishop Madera was known as the bishop for the people. He had a passion for getting to know all his worshippers, and always wanted to be actively involved in the community. He was the first Hispanic to lead a California diocese since 1896, overseeing eight counties of 348,300 Catholics, half of whom were Hispanic. Bishop Madera spoke four languages, and was unique amongst other Bishops in the United States because he was from a Mexican background.

Bishop Madera is survived by his sister Carmelita and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Bishop Madera, whose passion, selfless service, and kind heart made an instrumental impact on the lives of those in the Valley. His humble nature and great character is something to be remembered. I join the Catholic and Hispanic community in honoring his life, his love for his worshippers, and passion for making a difference. He will be greatly missed.

REMEMBERING WILLIE
SUMMERVILLE**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Willie Summerville, a friend and beloved community member, who passed away on March 7, 2017 at the age of 72. Willie served as choirmaster for the Saint Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Champaign for over 50 years, and was a longtime music teacher in Champaign and Urbana schools and the University of Illinois. In addition, he served as choir director for several community choirs.

The impact Willie left on the community stretches far beyond the conductor's podium. Willie found a passion in teaching others. He served as outreach coordinator for the African American Studies Program at the University and taught classes on African-American and European sacred music. He also offered his talents to music students of all ages through private lessons in voice and piano.

Willie first arrived in Champaign-Urbana in the 1960s when he came to the area to play tuba for the Marching Illini. Since then, he has become a well-established musician and a respected community leader.

Willie was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and most of all, he was a treasure in the Champaign-Urbana community who will be greatly missed. His love for music and his devotion to the community will always be remembered. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

MIKAH VEGA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mikah Vega for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Mikah Vega is a 12th grader at Mountain Range High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mikah Vega is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mikah Vega for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017 FAIRFAX
COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 39th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present 125 awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medal of Valor.

Seventy-eight awards will be bestowed upon first responders who serve with the Fairfax County Police Department in recognition of their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

Sgt. Joseph L. Furman, MPO Gene M. Taitano, PFC Stephen K. Carter, PFC Lane M. Leisey (2), PFC Matthew R. Long, PFC Gershon L. Ramirez, Det. Michelle M. Warren.

BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR

2Lt. Camille S. Neville, 2Lt. Charles H. Riddle, Sgt. Matthew A. Guzzetta, Sgt. Ari D. Morin, MPO Mary Hulse, MPO Michael D. Riccio, MPO Mark S. Yawornicky, PFC Michael H. Burgoyne Jr., PFC Silvana B. Masood, PFC Kenyatta L. Momon, PFC Christopher W. Munson, PFC Amanda B. Paris, PFC Steven L. Randazzo, PFC Nicholas A. Shivley, PFC Todd B. Sweeney, PFC Kurt T. Woodward, Det. David J. Faulk, Animal Caretaker II John W. Good, Volunteer Coordinator Cynthia E. Sbrocco.

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR

1Lt. M. Pirnat, 2Lt. Marc H. Mitchell, 2Lt. Edward S. Rediske, Sgt. Michael A. Comer, Physician's Assistant Craig DeAtley, MPO Jason E. Reichel, MPO Adrian K. Steiding, PFC Brandy L. Andres, PFC James A. Burleson, PFC Jason E. Chandler, PFC Christopher B. Hutchison, PFC Richard A. Juchnewicz, PFC Jonathan L. Kaminski (2), PFC Jonathan D. Keitz, PFC John P. Kolcun, PFC Russ E. Lephart, PFC David A. Neil, Jr., PFC Matthew W. Stanfield, PFC Dustin D. Tewillager, PFC Stephen T. Vaughn, Det. Anthony N. Taormina, Ofc. Kenneth D. Baxter, Ofc. Andrew K. Kuremsky.

LIFESAVING AWARD

2Lt. Edward S. Rediske, Sgt. John H. Kim (2), Sgt. David Kroll, PFC Kyle R. Bryant, PFC Arthur Y. Cho, PFC Gregory S. Cox, PFC Timothy S. Evans, PFC John E. Matusiak, PFC Katherine A. Montwill, PFC William M. Mulhern (2), PFC Nathan L. Musser, PFC Marian I. Nedeltchev, PFC Edwin M. Pastora,